

## Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 169296

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: CASC, NP

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

1. EXPEDITION PLEASED REINHARD ABLE TO JOIN TEAM. HOPE HE CAN EQUIP SELF FROM LOCAL SOURCES SINCE EXPEDITION WILL BE PRESSED IN ANY EVENT TO MEET NEEDS OF SHERPAS. CBS ANNOUNCED COVERAGE OF EXPEDITION YESTERDAY 7 JULY. THIS ENTAILS TELEVISION TEAM OF SEVEN, FOUR OF WHOM MAY GO ABOVE BASE CAMP. THIS WILL ALSO REQUIRE SHERPAS ADDITIONAL TO THE ORIGINAL TWENTY. EXPECT APPROXIMATELY SIX TO BE OCCUPIED WITH TV RELATED CARRIES BELOW THE COL, AND WE HOPE TO USE THEM FOR CARRIES TO COL AND ABOVE SUPPLEMENTING ORIGINAL TWENTY. EXPEDITION HAS PURCHASED AND SHIPPED ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR TOTAL 40 CLIMBERS AND HIGH ALTITUDE SHERPAS. SINCE APPARENTLY MUST GIVE FULL EXPEDITION GEAR TO BASE MANAGER, THREE ICE FALL PORTERS AND LIAISON OFFICER, THIS WOULD PERMIT TOTAL 24 HIGH ALTITUDE SHERPAS WHICH SEEMS EXTREMELY LOW. ACCORDINGLY, WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE FOR LOCALLY EQUIPPED ICE FALL PORTERS, E.G. BY PAYING PREMIUMS FOR ICE FALL PORTERS TO EQUIP SELVES, THEREBY FREEING UP 3 SETS

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EQUIPMENT FOR THREE MORE HIGH ALTITUDE SHERPAS (FOR TOTAL

27). PLEASE ADVISE OF FEASIBILITY. LESS DESIRABLE ALTER-NATIVE MIGHT BE DROPPING 3 ICE FALL PORTERS, ALLOWING ICE

FALL ROUTE TO CLOSE, AND ADD 3 HIGH ALTITUDE PORTERS IN LIEU OF ICE FALL PORTERS.

2. FOR WALK-IN COMPANIONS WILL SHARE TENTS WITH EXPEDITION, BUT WILL RELY FOR ALL FOOD ON MT. TRAVEL (OR OTHER TREKKING ORGANIZATION IF MT. TRAVEL PREFERS). SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD HAS BEEN SHIPPED FROM U.S. FOR EXPEDITION, AND EXPEDITION WILL BRING ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT FOR OTHERS GENERALLY COMPARABLE TO PROVISIONS FOR EXPEDITION. ARE NOT SURE WHAT DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHETHER COMPANIONS ARE PART OF EXPEDITION OR SEPARATE TREKKING GROUP. ASSUMING NO PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT COMPANIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED PART OF EXPEDITION IF THAT IS PREFERABLE TO MT. TRAVEL (AND EXPEDITION WILL SEEK REIMBURSEMENT) OR CAN BE HANDLED AS SEPARATE TREK GROUP. EXPEDITION HAS AGREED WITH CBS TO ABSORB ALL EXPENSES AFTER KATHMANDU OF TV CREW, WHICH WILL CONSIST OF SEVEN PERSONS, TWO OF WHOM WILL RETURN KATHMANDU IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL EXPEDITION AT BASE CAMP.

3. TWO SHIPPING LISTS POUCHED. IF POSSIBLE WOULD APPRECIATE STACKING BOXES ON ARRIVAL IN NUMERICAL ORDER SEPARATED BY COLOR CODE. PLEASE DO NOT OPEN ANY BOXES UNTIL ARRIVAL TEAM MEMBERS WITH DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF COMPLICATED CODE SYSTEM. IF NECESSARY CAN SEND ONE OR TWO EXPEDITION MEMBERS WEEK OF JULY 19 TO HELP. EXPEDITION PLANS DEPART LOS ANGELES JULY 24, ARRIVE KATHMANDU JULY 28.

4. APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION NUMBER OF BOOTS IN TECHNICAL SHIPMENT.

5. RECALL FISCHER OFFER PLACE MEMBERS EXPEDITION IN EMBASSY HOMES. IN VIEW OF EXPANDED NUMBER, FRIENDS, TV CREW, FISCHER MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER. WOULD APPRECIATE BOOKING INEXPENSIVE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ANY WHICH CANNOT BE HANDLED IN HOMES WITHOUT INCONVENIENCE.  
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6. WHAT IS COST OF BLUET CARTRIDGES?

7. CAN TV CREW STORE CAMERA EQUIPMENT IN SECURE PLACE IN KATHMANDU DURING EXPEDITION?

8. ARE TENT CANDLES AVAILABLE LOCALLY?

9. WILL DESPOSIT \$25,000 FISCHER ACCOUNT FRIDAY OR MONDAY  
DEPENDING ON BANK TRANSFER. WILL IMMEDIATELY ADVISE ON  
DEPOSIT.

10. TV CREW MAY WISH TO CHARTER HELICOPTER. WHAT TYPES  
ARE AVAILABLE, AND WHAT ARE CURRENT RATES? ARE ADVISED  
THAT BEST COPTER FOR THEIR PURPOSES WOULD BE ALOUETTE 3  
OR LAMA, PREFERABLY LATTER. KISSINGER

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